(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of the proposals received from the engineering institutions across the country and the institutions shortlisted by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Committee has been constituted with Prof. M. Anand Krishnan as convener and Prof. A. Ghosh and Prof. D.V. Singh as members to examine the vision documents of the short listed Engineering Institutions for upgradation to the level of IITs.

(c) Initially, 200 institutions were considered by an Expert Committee headed by Prof. S.K. Joshi. The Committee identified the following 7 institutions in order of merit for upgradation to the level of IITs:-

1. Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.
2. University College of Engineering combined with the University College of Technology, both belonging to Osmania University, Hyderabad.
3. Bengal Engineering College, Howrah.
4. Jadavpur University's Engineering and Technology Departments.
5. Zakir Hussain College of Engineering and Technology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.
6. Andhra University College of Engineering, Vishakhapatnam and
7. Cochin University of Science and Technology, Cochin.

Cooking cost under NP-NSPE

488. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Centre for assistance to meet the cooking cost under NP-NSPE, 2004 and for establishment of 7 new DIETs and upgradation of CTE (Gulbarga) as IASE; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As regards NP-NSPE, 2004 (revised Mid-Day Meal Scheme), Rs. 6754.68 lakhs has been released to Government of Karnataka towards first instalment of Central assistance to meet cooking cost.

Establishment of 7 new/upgraded DIETs for Karnataka was approved in 2004-05 under the revised teacher education scheme and first instalment of Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 371.75 lakh has been released for civil works. A proposal for upgradation of CTE, Gulbarga to IASE was received from the State Government. Since non-recurring component of the proposal was exceeding the prescribed financial ceiling limit, the State Government has been requested to revise its proposal.

Report on women empowerment

489. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recently released report of the World Economic Forum entitled "Women Empowerment, measuring the Global Gender Gap", placing India at the 53rd position out of the 58 countries surveyed on social, economic and political gender parity;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the action Government propose to initiate or have already initiated to improve upon the role of women and for their empowerment in different fields of activities like education, health, sports and other areas as set out in the above mentioned report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government is already siezed of the matter relating to gender disparity brought out by the World Economic Forum. The parameters included in the Report undergo continuous review through our plan documents and steps are taken from time to time improve the position. The Government has initiated gender mainstreaming measures at the Union and State levels to ensure that gender concerns are brought centre stage in all